



Collector Munuswami has said educated youths in Nagapattinam can avail of business loans up to ₹1 crore

DECCAN CHRONICLE

SUNDAY | 14 SEPTEMBER 2014 | CHENNAI

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6 Government must give an explanation regarding the three fishermen missing at sea since 25 August — **Jawahirullah Ramanathapuram MLA**

OTHER STORIES

MOTHER, SON DIE IN SUICIDE BID

Krishnagiri: A 35-year-old woman committed suicide after feeding poison to her children. The police said Nirmala, 35, was the wife of Madeshwaran, 40, a farmhand of Vinayakapuram, in Guruparapalli police limits of Krishnagiri district. The couple has a daughter, Lokeshwari, 9, and two sons, Dhanush, 7, and Poovarasen, 5. It is believed that Nirmala and her husband Madeshwaran frequently quarrelled over money matters.

On Friday, when Madeshwaran was not at home, Nirmala gave poison to Lokeshwari, Dhanush and Poovarasen, and also consumed it herself.

When Madeshwaran returned from work, he found all four of them frothing from the mouth.

They were taken to a private hospital in Krishnagiri where Nirmala and her son Dhanush were declared brought dead.

The condition of Lokeshwari and Poovarasen is said to be critical.

Batch includes 21 cadets from foreign countries 246 cadets pass out of OTA

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, SEPT. 13

A total of 246 cadets, 42 of them lady cadets, were on Saturday passed out of the Officer's Training Academy at St Thomas Mount after successfully completing their nearly 49-week rigorous training. The latest batch of cadets commissioned into the Army service has 204 gentlemen cadets including 21 cadets from foreign countries. Among them, 16 are from Afghanistan, four from Seychelles and one from Lesotho.

Reviewing the spectacular passing out parade was Lt Gen Philip Campose, Vice Chief of Army Staff, accompanied by Lt Gen S.S. Jog, commandant, OTA, and Maj Gen G. Murali, deputy commandant, OTA.

Delivering his congratulatory speech, Lt Gen Campose commended the new officers for their dedication and perseverance. He emphasised the need for officers to keep abreast of latest technology and modernisation process. He also distributed awards to meritorious cadets.

The sword of honour, the highest individual prize of OTA, was presented to academy cadet Adjutant Maninder Pal Singh and the gold medal for standing first in the order of merit was bestowed on the battalion under officer Preeti Mudela. After the parade, a traditional piping ceremony, wherein the stars of the cadets are revealed by their parents and close ones, and oath-taking ceremony was witnessed, finally leading to jubilant scenes of celebrations among the cadets.

So far, the academy has seen more than 26,000 cadets commissioned into the Indian Army.



A young man is thrown up in the air by his fellow cadets after the OTA passing out parade. —DC

Family also takes part in jubilant moment

VENKATESAN
PARTHASARATHY | DC
CHENNAI, SEPT. 13

Yet another spectacular passing out parade and yet another batch of budding army officers took their first steps towards realising their dream career of military service. With proud parents and relatives witnessing the moment from close quarters, numerous tales of sheer hardwork and emotion unravelled at the occasion. For Colonel Raman, the passing out of his son Arvind Subramaniam was always destined as he was brought up in family where military service is seen more of an individual fulfilling his/her duty. Colonel Raman's brother is also a military officer and interestingly even his daughter is all set to pass out of the OTA next year. Arvind who has a LLM degree from NALSAR said, "I studied in



Gentleman cadet Ramachandran embracing his mother after passing out from OTA on Saturday. —DC

various army schools around the country and in a way, it was naturally within me to enter military service."

Being the first person in the family to enter military might be daunting for some, but not for Ajitha, civil engineering graduate. Her parents Vijayakumar and Manimegalai couldn't be more proud of their daughter. "She has always been a straightforward and bold lady. She was focused and strove to pursue this," said Vijayakumar.

Another cadet Anuradha, also a civil engineer, had in the past tuned down placements at TCS and another MNC firm. "My parents have been very encouraging. My father speaks about women empowerment; this (joining the Army) is definitely the way to achieve it," she said.

At the end though, it is undeniable that parents' possess mixed emotions. While on one hand, they can be jubilant of their wards becoming an officer in Indian Army, it comes with a prayer.

Simple maritime laws need of hour, says judge

DC CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI, SEPT. 13

Justice R. Sudhakar of the Madras HC emphasised on amending maritime laws which were introduced during the British era.

While inaugurating a workshop on Admiralty Bill 2012 – Jurisdiction and Settlement of Maritime Claims, in Chennai on Saturday, Justice Sudhakar said though efforts were made to amend maritime laws, the government was unable to do so for decades.

He said, "This is an age of information, where information is received at a touch of computers/smart phones. The law should be made simple and precise without ambiguity." Today,

everyone wants to know the law. Hence, law should be framed in such a way that it is easily understood.

Senior advocate V. Aravamudhan said following an order of the SC in MV Elizabeth and others vs Harwan Investment and Trading Private Ltd 1992, the Union government had proposed to introduce the Admiralty (Jurisdiction and Settlement of Maritime Claims) Bill 2012, a comprehensive legislation on admiralty law of the country intended to cover all claims against a ship owner or ship.

Among others, experts K.G. Ramakrishnan, R. Venkat, J.P. Meneses and S. Sankaran addressed the gathering.

Arvind Subramaniam

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